

Montana Board of Public Education

Standards Revision

Statement of Purpose 2005-2010

The purpose of the Standards Revision Project is to assure Montana citizens that its public schools are providing **all** children of our great state with challenging academic expectations. The Montana Board of Public Education is charged with the responsibility of leading a process of standards revision that meets the following guiding principles.

Revised learning standards which are academic in focus, rigorous but attainable, readily understandable, and designed to measure the progress of students toward meeting them, will lead to the improvement of Montana's schools and a brighter future for our people.

Revised standards must clearly and consistently identify what students should know, understand and be able to do. Parents, educators, and the greater Montana community must be involved in the revision process. Revised standards will provide a framework to help guide local curriculum and instruction, encouraging school districts and teachers to place emphasis on critical areas of learning. In addition, standards should be measured and made known to the Montana public.

With the vital purpose of improving Montana's schools as our goal, the Montana Board of Public Education sets forth the following criteria to guide Standards Revision:

1. Standards will be academic in nature and content specific.
2. Standards will be challenging and rigorous.
3. Standards will be clear, understandable and free of jargon.
4. Standards will be measurable.
5. Standards will address diversity specifically fulfilling the commitment to implementing MCA 20-1-501, Indian Education for All and MCA 20-9-309 2 (c).

With the purpose of developing a successful and useful product, the Montana Board of Public Education sets forth the following process to guide the Montana Standards Revision:

1. Use the existing Montana Standards Framework --current accreditation program delivery and foundation standards, content and performance standards and benchmarks, and existing structure (4th, 8th, and upon graduation);
2. Use proven practices from Montana classrooms;
3. Consider international, national and other states' standards;
4. Consider entrance expectations for work place and postsecondary education;
5. Consider achievement and other related data;
6. Consider other research e.g., Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, School Redesign Network, Understanding by Design, Effective Schools Research, etc.
7. Consider comments from professional education associations;
8. Consider comments from tribal and school district educators;
9. Consider recommendations from Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education; and
10. Involve the Montana public.